



Palmetto State Clean Fuels Coalition - We're On The Road To Cleaner Air-

News and Events

DOE Awards More Than \$230,000 For South Carolina Clean Cities Projects

The United States Department of Energy announced that it will grant more than \$16.3 million to 162 energy projects in 43 states and the District of Columbia as part of its State Energy Program. The SC Energy Office garnered \$440,535 for 6 projects. As part of DOE's Southeast Regional Office, the South Carolina Energy Office participated in the 2004 round of competition for funding and received 22 percent of the 27 awards in the region, and 19 percent of the \$2.3 million in funding.

Four of the awards for South Carolina were in the Clean Cities category for promotion of alternative fuels, one was in the Biomass category to promote and provide incentives for biomass in the state, and one was for support of the Rebuild South Carolina program which is managed by the SC Energy Office.

The following are descriptions of projects that were awarded funding:

- **Alternative Futures:** SCEO received \$150,000 in funding for the project with a cost share of \$103,457 from United Energy Distributors for a total project cost of \$253,457. The project purpose is to construct a state of the art biofuels storage and distribution facility from an old kaolin storage facility by upgrading part of the United Energy Distributors refueling site in Aiken, South Carolina. Once completed, this site will hold up to 260,000 gallons of ethanol and biodiesel. United Energy Distributors estimates that the ability to purchase and store these fuels in bulk will allow them to pass on a savings of \$0.12 - \$0.15 per gallon to fuel distributors and direct customers throughout the Southeast. Fuel displacement resulting from this project will be approximately 1 million gallons per year in several Southeastern states.
- **Schwan's Home Service Propane Truck Deployment in South Carolina:** SCEO received \$37,505 in funding for the project with a cost share of \$291,073 from Schwan's for a total project cost of \$328,578. Under this 1-year project, Schwan's Home Service, Inc. will convert 11 heavy-duty delivery trucks from gasoline fueling to dedicated propane systems. The trucks will displace 302,500 gallons of conventional fossil transportation fuel (gasoline) and represent an annual fuel cost savings of \$40,571. Schwan's, in collaboration with the Palmetto State Clean Fuels Coalition will use the project and Schwan's propane experience and expertise to educate fleets, the public, media and policy-makers in South Carolina with respect to the opportunities for improving the corporate profitability by using clean-burning propane.
- **University of South Carolina Ethanol Infrastructure Installation:** SCEO received \$23,030 in funding for the project with a cost share of \$9,870 from USC for a total project cost of \$32,900. The purpose of this project is to install E-85 refueling infrastructure at the University of South Carolina. USC has seventy flex-fuel vehicles (FFVs) and maintenance trucks that will fuel exclusively on E-85. Operating these



vehicles on E-85 will displace 42,834 gallons of gasoline each year. The total cost of this project is only \$32,900, which makes it a low-cost project that will have a high visibility and impact in the Columbia area.

- **Clean Cities Coalition Support - Palmetto State Clean Fuels Coalition:** SCEO received \$20,000 in funding for support of the coordination of the Clean Cities program in South Carolina. The SC Energy Office provided a cost share of \$40,000, for a total project funding of \$60,000. The purpose of this project is to ensure continued coordination and staffing of the Palmetto State Clean Fuels Coalition by the Catawba Regional Council of Governments. Funding will ensure continued momentum gained after the Coalition's official Clean Cities designation on August 4, 2003 for projects, marketing, and increased use of alternative fuel and alternative fuel vehicles. Funding will enable promotion and building of infrastructure to support increasing use of alternative fuels by state and local government in the nine county coalition region.
- **South Carolina Biomass Market Development Program (SCBMDP):** SCEO received \$80,000 in funding for the project with a cost share of \$111,924 provided by the Department of Commerce and its partners for a total project cost of \$191,924. The South Carolina Biomass Market Development Partnership (SCBMDP) will help develop biomass-based technologies, and expand markets for biomass-based products in the state, regionally and nationally, and will support development of technologies and markets that contribute to the economic viability of bio-refineries. SCBMDP will accomplish this by outreach and information transfer to consumers, producers and industry. And, it will also develop innovative state and/or local incentives that will facilitate increased market development for bio-based power, fuels and other valuable products.
- **Rebuild South Carolina:** SCEO received \$130,000 in funding for the project with a cost share of \$120,000 provided by SCEO for a total project cost of \$250,000. The South Carolina Energy Office will expand its Rebuild South Carolina program to service and support existing partnerships and to negotiate new partnerships. The Rebuild South Carolina program is an existing South Carolina Energy Office program that provides comprehensive energy efficiency assistance to state and local governments, colleges and universities and K-12 schools. Work under this program involves energy needs analysis and planning, project selection and implementation, financing, and measurement. Low-interest loans are also available under the ConserFund loan program for energy conservation improvements. Partners receive the Energy Office's guidance throughout the life of each project.

Oak Ridge National Laboratory Awards Fuel Economy Partnership Grant To PSCFC

The Palmetto State Clean Fuels Coalition (PSCFC) and the Centralina Clean Fuels Coalition (CCFC) were awarded \$18,000 under the 2004 Clean Cities/Fuel Economy Partnership Program. The funds will allow development of an educational plan addressing the benefits of fuel economy.

The focus of the Fuel Economy Educational Plan would be:

- To educate consumers on the importance of vehicle choice.
- To demonstrate that increasing fuel economy is an effective means of reducing oil imports and improving air quality.
- To provide information to make it easier for consumers to identify 'greener vehicles.'
- To build demand for high-efficiency, cleaner vehicles and technologies.
- To promote modification of driving styles so that fuel economy standards are realized.

DOE Regional Office News

The U.S. Department of Energy, Atlanta Regional office is now officially the U.S. Department of Energy, Southeast Regional Office. The purpose of this change is to better reflect the states and territories that are served by the office and not the city in which the office just happens to be located. Breaking from a long-standing federal tradition, DOE does not plan to use acronyms as they have in the past. Accordingly, the office will be referred to as the Southeast Regional Office.

Stakeholder Updates

City of Rock Hill Adds Neighborhood Electric Vehicles

The City of Rock Hill is doing its part on behalf of the environment. The city has exhibited a long-term commitment to alternative fuels by operating compressed natural gas (CNG) heavy duty vehicles in their waste collection division since 1998. The city recently began adding Neighborhood Electric Vehicles to their Parks and Recreation and meter reader fleets.

Richland County Moving Forward With Alternative Fuels

Richland County is currently in the process of pin-pointing its flex-fuel vehicles. Once these vehicles are located, a directive will be sent to those departments housing those FFV's, stating that those FFV's will use E85 when available.

Richland County, in conjunction with DHEC, and various other local government entities and organizations, has applied for a diesel retrofits grant.

Industry News

Ford Ends Natural Gas Vehicle Production Concentrates on Hybrids

Ford Motor Company announced that the company is phasing out natural gas and propane vehicles in favor of gasoline/electric hybrid technology and E-85 vehicles beginning in the 2005 model year.

Ford Motor Company began producing the 2005 Ford Escape Hybrid at its Kansas City Assembly Plant. The Escape Hybrid is the first hybrid sport utility vehicle (SUV) and the first hybrid vehicle to be manufactured in the United States. Ford plans to produce 20,000 Escape Hybrids during its first full year of production. See the [Ford press release](#) and [Escape Hybrid Web page](#).



Toyota Announces Increase In Production of Prius

Toyota Motor Corporation, is preparing to boost production of its popular Prius hybrid. During the first half of 2005, Toyota will increase Prius production from 10,000 vehicles per month to 15,000 vehicles per month. According to Toyota, customers have been forced to wait months for delivery of the vehicles. See the [Toyota press release](#).

This newsletter is funded by the South Carolina Energy Office (SCEO) and is also available on the Palmetto State Clean Fuels Coalition Webpage at www.palmettocleanfuels.org. If you have questions or comments about this newsletter, please contact Wendy Bell at wbell@catawbacog.org or at (803) 327-9041.